

A wide, golden wheat field under a blue sky with wispy clouds.

**ONE COUNTRY**

**May 27, 2019**

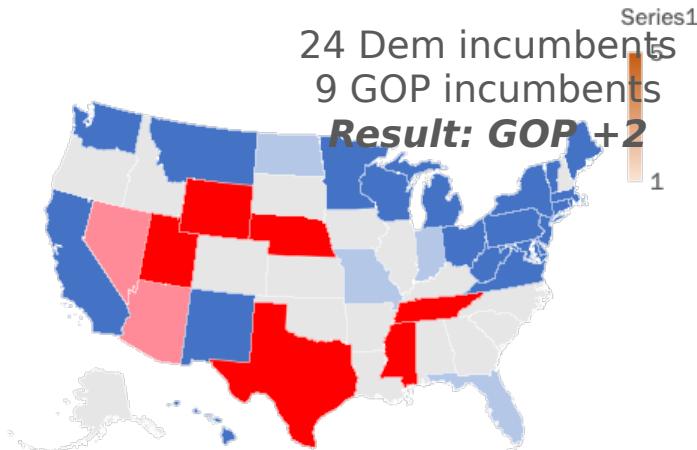
# Democrats face a difficult path to a 2020 majority in the Senate, with structural disadvantages moving forward

- A potential Democratic President must have a Democratic Senate if they wish to accomplish any major reforms.
- **Republicans should be more vulnerable**, with 22 Republican seats up for election and only 12 Democratic ones.
  - Since 2000, the party defending the most Senate seats suffered a net loss in 7 out of 10 instances, with an average loss of 5 seats.
  - Democrats Need a Net Gain of 3 or 4 Seats to take control (3 if a Democrat wins Presidency).
  - In 2018, Republicans translated their structural advantage to a 2 seat gain.
- Why will Democrats face challenges?
  - Senate results are increasingly correlated with Presidential results.
  - 2020 GOP incumbents come largely from strong Trump states.
  - Rural states are particularly problematic.

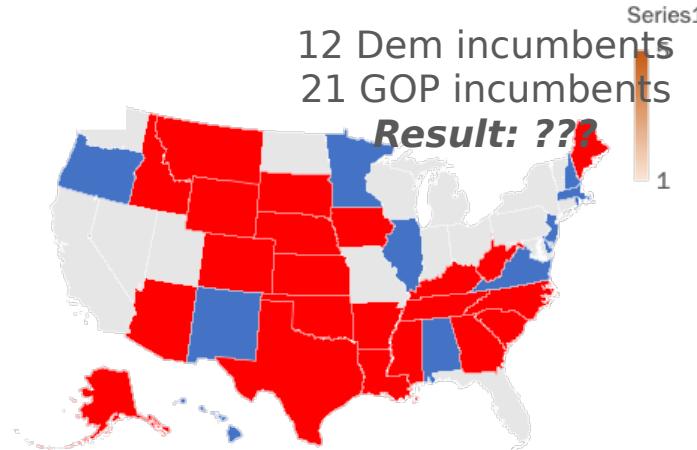


# With more GOP Senate incumbents facing reelection, the map *should* favor Democrats

2018 Senate Results



2020 Senate Map



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Democratic hold	<u>Close</u>
Democratic loss	Az
Republican hold	Races
Republican loss	R+5.8

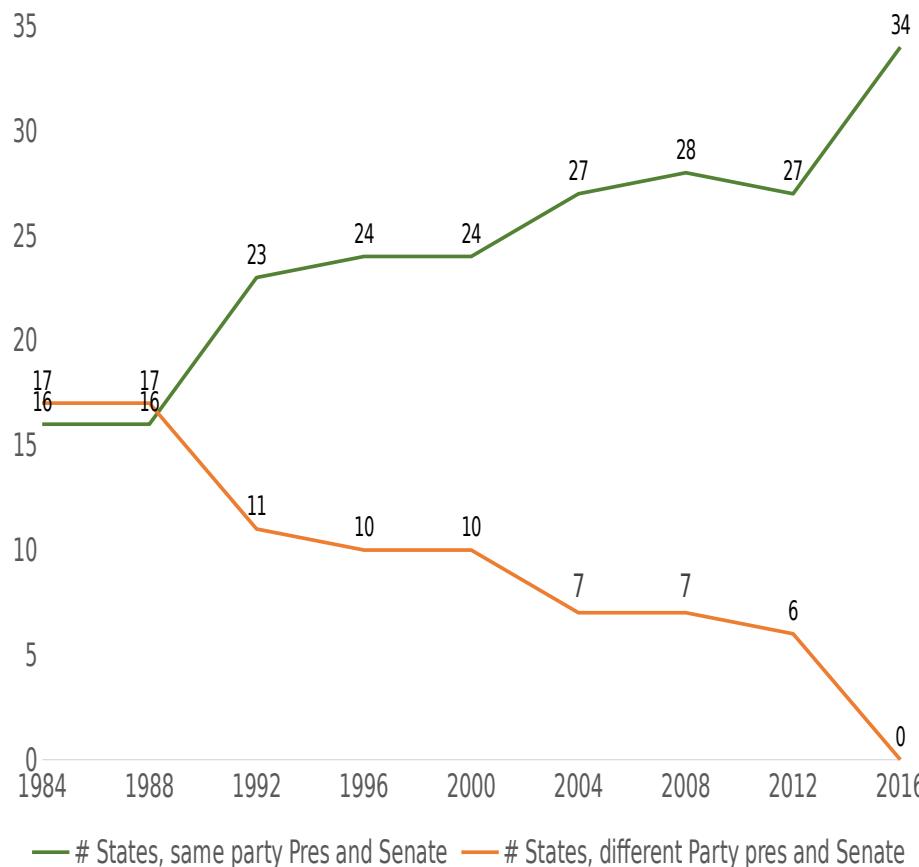
D+2.4      MT: D+3.5  
FL: R+0.2      NV: D+4.9  
IN: R+5.9      MO: .  
MO: .      TX: R+2.7

Democratic
Incumbent
Republican
Incumbent



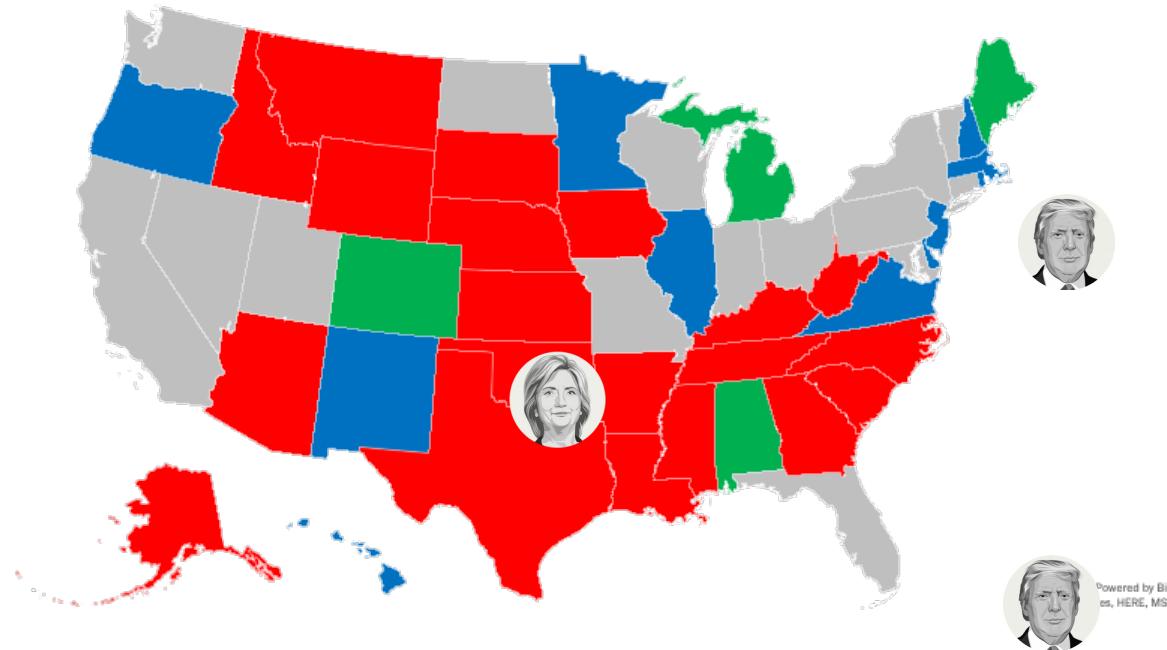
# Presidential results now have an outsized impact on Senate outcomes

In 2016, EVERY Senate race result matched the top of the ticket in the state, unlike previous years



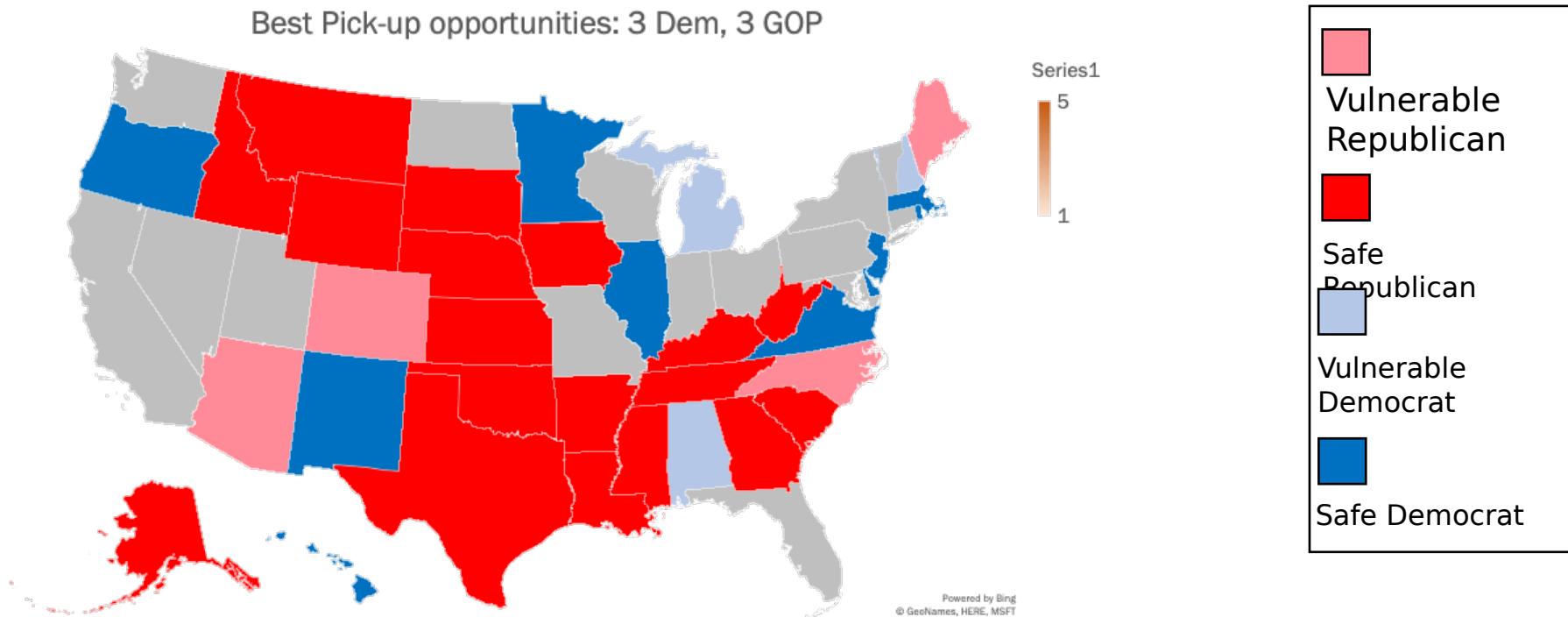
# Looking at the 2020 Senate map through 2016 results, the breakthrough opportunities look much thinner

2020 Senate states where current incumbent is of different party than  
2016 Presidential winner



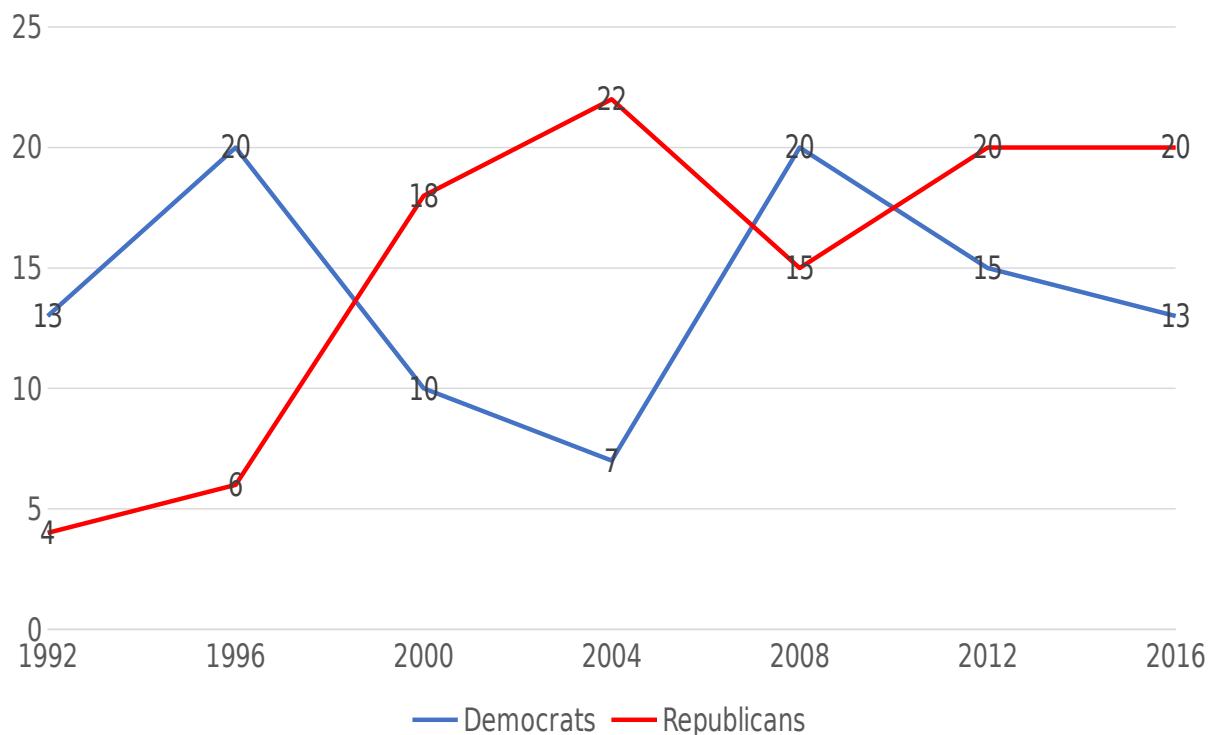
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# This hues closely to conventional wisdom about the 2020 Senate Map



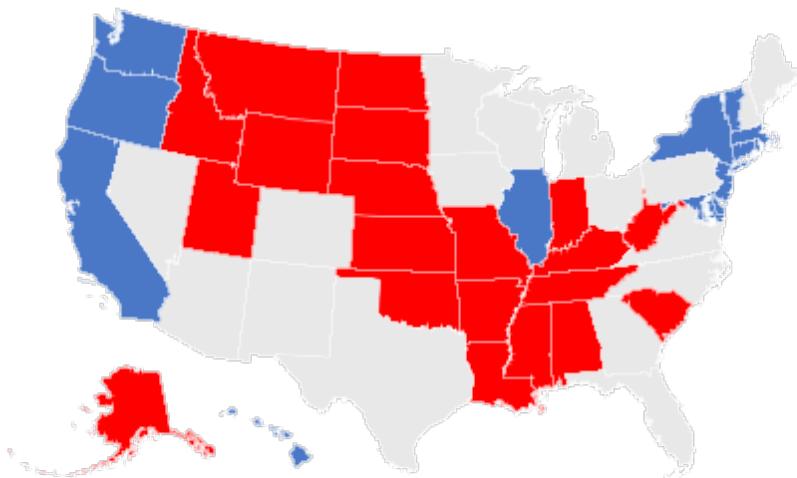
Republicans now have consistently more “safe” presidential states: this provides them a strong base for the Senate

# of States where Presidential Candidate Won by 10 or more Points

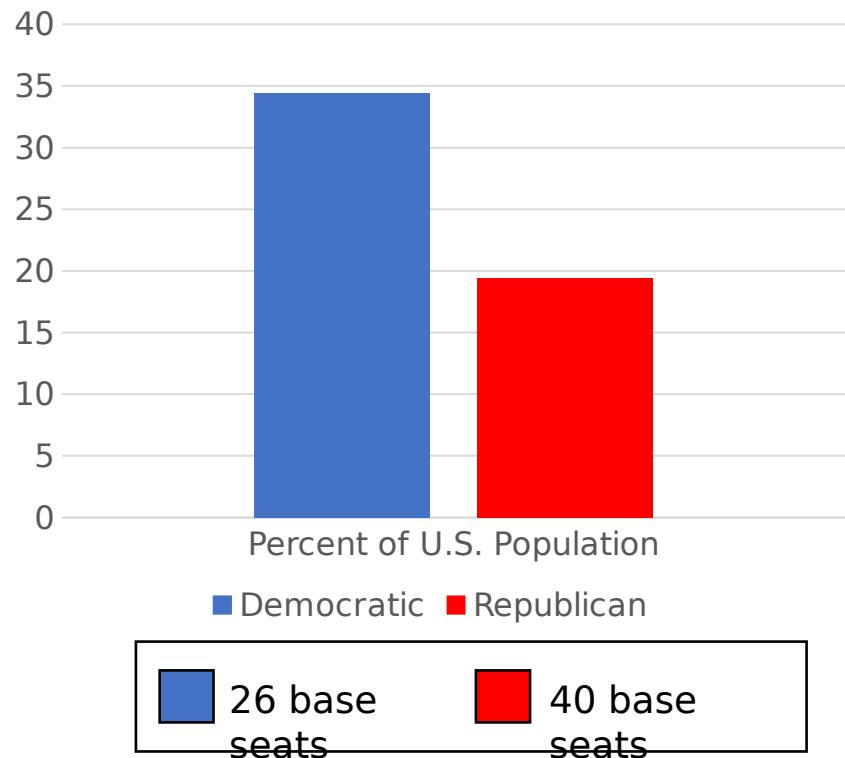


The GOP Senate majority is built on rural states: 19% of the population yields a state “base” of 40 seats  
Just Manchin, Tester and Jones hold seats in that GOP base geography

Party Base by State



Base State Population



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